

The Kansas City Journal.

ESTABLISHED 1854.

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DURING THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 17, THE JOURNAL CIRCULATED 227,550 COPIES; DAILY AVERAGE, 390,421.

Weather Forecast for Sunday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Rain, clearing Sunday afternoon or night; fairly windy, becoming calm. For Missouri: Showers, preceded by fair in north-west and northern portions; variable winds. For Kansas: Thundering weather, followed by showers in southern portion; variable winds. For Nebraska: Fair; variable winds. For Colorado: Thundering weather; variable winds.

AS TO RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

It is announced by managers of the proposed special session of the legislature in Kansas that such a railroad bill will be passed as to reduce transportation charges 25 per cent. It may be interesting to inquire a little into the probable results of such a measure, and in doing so we have selected for reference the official reports of the Santa Fe road, on the assumption that it is a fair representative of Kansas railroad interests, and that its percentages of loss or profit will apply pretty accurately to the whole.

The Santa Fe has not yet compiled its reports for the year ending June 30, 1898, and we are compelled to deal with the figures of 1897, but as that was one of the most prosperous years in the whole history of the road, it cannot be charged that the figures are unduly favorable. The first showing. First we present a little table showing the earnings and expenses of this road on all business beginning and ending in Kansas, on the proportion passing through Kansas from one state to another, and on the proportion originating in Kansas and passing out—in short, all the business that by any stretch could be considered in connection with the Kansas traffic:

Group earnings for 1897, \$2,282,512.15
Operating expenses and taxes, 6,602,731.28
Net earnings, \$1,635,181.27

Now in reducing transportation charges 25 per cent, one-fourth must be taken away from the gross receipts, and this calculation having been made it will be discovered that the gross receipts have been reduced to \$2,212,887.07, or \$69,625.08 less than the original earnings. If the proposed Kansas bill had been in force in 1897, on this division of Santa Fe traffic the owners of the road, instead of receiving a fair return for their capital invested, would have been compelled to go down into their pockets for something more than one-third of a million in order to keep their road open and the wheels moving.

But the injustice of the proposed reduction does not appear in all its enormity until it is considered in connection with the business actually transacted in Kansas, the only proportion of the traffic over which the legislature can have any rightful control. Here is a table setting forth the condition of this traffic in the year given:

Passenger earnings, \$1,725,524.24
Freight earnings, or \$2,585,863.75 less taxes and operating expenses, 772,941.49
Gross earnings in Kansas, \$4,538,446.50
Operating expenses, 2,285,232.15
Taxes, 61,980.10
Total, \$2,191,234.25

Net earnings, \$1,906,012.10
By applying the proposed 25 per cent reduction to this Kansas business it will be discovered that the gross receipts have been reduced to \$3,396,622.38, or \$233,824.12 less than the original earnings.

Therefore, if the Populist bill had been in force in 1897, and the Santa Fe had had no earning capacity outside of Kansas, the owners of the road would have been out of pocket more than one-half million dollars. These figures are not strictly accurate, because the proposed reduction could scarcely apply to mail and express, but even allowing for the full earning capacity for these will not materially alter the amount of losses.

In dealing with what a legislature or other ruling power had a right to take into consideration in determining the reasonableness of a railroad rate the supreme court of the United States, in the Nebraska case, decided as follows:

"A state enactment, or regulations made under the authority of a state enactment, establishing rates for the transportation of persons or property by railroad that will not admit of the carrier earning such compensation as, under all the circumstances, is just to it and to the public, would deprive such carrier of its property without due process of law, and deny to it the equal protection of the laws; and would, therefore, be repugnant to the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States. If it is misapprehended, counsel, their argument leads to the conclusion that the state of Nebraska could legally require local freight business to be conducted even at an actual loss, if the company earned on its interstate business enough to give it just compensation in respect of its entire line and all its business, interstate and domestic. We can not concur in this view. In our judgment, it must be held that the reasonableness of rates prescribed by a state for the transportation of persons and property wholly within its limits must be determined without reference to the interstate business done by the carrier, or to the profits derived from it. The state can not justify unreasonable low rates for domestic transportation, considered alone, upon the ground that the carrier is earning large profits on its interstate business, over which, so far as rates are concerned, the state has no control."

This brings us face to face with the Kansas situation, and gives us insight to the foolish thing which the Populist legislature is about to do. It is denied the power to fix rates so low that the local traffic will afford no profit. It has abundance of evidence before it to show that the present rates do not permit the earning of a fair rate of interest for railroad capital invested, and yet it proposes to cut these rates 25 per cent, and make it impossible for the roads to earn even operating expenses. We must assume that the engineers of this measure have ordinary intelligence, and that they must be well aware that their proposed bill can not stand the test of federal law. They are pushing their bill solely for the sake of political unbecoming, knowing full well that it is illegal and unconstitutional, and for this sort of demagoguery the state of Kansas must remain proud.

There is no need to plead for the railroads. They are in no danger, for they have rights under the constitution which can not be trampled under foot. But for the people of Kansas there should be much pleading and more consideration. There can be but one result of the proposed Populist railroad legislation, and that is to plunge the people and the companies into expensive strife and litigation.

THE CLOSING OF A GREAT YEAR.

From a business standpoint, not to speak of many other important and interesting considerations, the year coming to a close is one of the most important in the history of the nation. The following is from last week's report of the Dan Mercantile agency:

"December is adding a surprising close to the most surprising year of American history. November surpassed all other months of the century in volume of business and production, and, thus far, December is doing even better in payments through clearing houses, in railroad earnings, in foreign trade and in the activity and strength of securities."

It is gratifying to know that the volume of business which set in soon after the beginning of the McKinley administration has been accumulating, and that at the close of the year 1898 the percentage of increase is larger than ever before. The year has witnessed remarkable prosperity in all lines of trade. It has witnessed extraordinary exports, and for the first time in American history the exports of manufacturers have exceeded the imports of the same class. There have been big balances in favor of the United States at the end of each month, and the gold that was paid out during the long period of depression has been steadily flowing back into the coffers of the American people.

All this, too, in spite of the prosecution of a war and the presentation of unusual interests calculated to divert attention from business. The general activity and continuous progress of the business world during the year just closing is one of the strongest possible indications of the commercial security of the United States. The spirit of enterprise has been strengthened in every part of the Union, notably in the South, which is unmistakably in favor of expansion and what it will bring to the Southern states in particular.

LABOR AND SOCIALISM.

It is gratifying to note that so vigorous and influential a labor leader as Samuel Gompers is unqualifiedly opposed to socialism, and that the great organization over which he presides has seconded him by an overwhelming vote in convention. The socialist idea which is making some headway among the industrial masses of this country is antagonistic to the principles on which the American government is founded. This country, of all the countries in the world, is a land of individual opportunities. It is the country where the citizen, no matter how humble his origin or condition, is privileged to work to the top. He may choose his calling in life, and if he have energy, perseverance and native ability he can attain the highest success.

Mr. Gompers rightly says that socialism is the enemy of labor organization. And not only of labor organization, but of the highest and best forms of labor itself. Take from the workman the stimulus of individual achievement and prosperity, and you destroy his ambition for excellence in workmanship. The American workman as a class are not in favor of socialism, and never will be. The attempt of theorists and agitators to foist it upon them will inevitably fail. The Kansas Populists went into the campaign this year on a partially socialist platform, and were overwhelmingly defeated. The people of this country have an abiding faith in the strength and wholesome of Americanism, and Americanism and socialism, like oil and water, will never mix.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Vest is gradually working up to the point where he will flash the constitution on George Dewey.

It is estimated that \$5,000,000 will be spent for holiday toys this year, not counting Colonel Bryan's new hobby.

Evidence is abundant that the holiday shoppers are this year giving the store clerks a touch of high life.

Perhaps Senator Rios might accept as a souvenir the pen with which Carl Schurz writes his anti-American editorials.

In the meantime let us hope that Senator Jumper, of Kansas, has been taking something for that deceptive jangle look.

Governor Leedy seems determined that the Kansas people shall have no occasion to regret that they failed to re-elect him.

For a patriot who is taking his last whin at country saving, the Hon. William Voluntary Allen is keeping remarkably quiet.

The holiday advertising will soon drop out, and the magazines will then be able to devote some of their space to war stories.

Mr. Gompers has a level head on a good many subjects, and his judgment is not a bit faulty in regard to the undesirability of socialism.

If it is in order, we would respectfully suggest to the Kansas City police that this town is infested with footpads, burglars and sneak thieves.

Perhaps the Hon. Billy Mason is waiting to see how the hotel clerks are going to line up on the question of expansion before committing himself.

The constitution may be a great instrument, but Mr. De Armond would have more regard for it if the framers had thought to load it for crows.

It is believed that if properly approached Colonel Bryan could be induced to waive his personal wishes and submit to a few newspaper interviews.

Mr. Vest has earned the distinction of having made more frothy speeches on the wrong side of public questions than any other man of his time.

If the president doesn't stop his chatter about the country's rosy future that Boston "anti" league may have to call a meeting and give him a vote of no confidence.

The Spartan character of Hon. Arkansas Jones is shown in the fact that he attends steadily to his senatorial duties, notwithstanding that haunting menacing feeling.

President McKinley declares that all is

well with the country and that the future is bright and inviting, and those Southerners actually seem to believe him. Mr. Vest must be deeply disgusted.

Still, the work of fraternizing has not gone so far that the Confederate flag is unfurled at public gatherings in the North, or the mention of Jeff Davis' name received with volubility applause.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

Topeka is beginning to tear its vitals over the question of an inaugural ball. Mr. Leedy is not much of a skipper, and therefore yielded gracefully to the demands of some of his people that the "frothy" might be shut out from the legislative temple of Kansas. Mr. Stanley, with the great Methodist church behind him, and all around him, for that matter, does not smile on the institution very warmly. Finally those interested appealed to Tom McNeal, as a disinterested citizen, to speak out the opinion of the tolling masses. After some personal reminiscences which are not without animus the orator speaks as follows: "We do not give a continental whether there is an inaugural ball or not."

The only consolation we can offer Major Shreve is that he can come down to Kansas City and have an inaugural ball any time he likes.

The Federation of Free Churches of England, which includes all the evangelical bodies of the realm except the established church, has a committee at work preparing a new catechism, which, if accepted, will be published with the approval of all the denominations represented in both England and America, with the recommendation and hope that it will be adopted in all the churches. This will be the first attempt to bring about uniformity of instruction for youth by this means since the Reformation. It naturally gives rise to the question: How many of those who read it were themselves brought up on a catechism, or have seen a catechism? It strikes us that the catechism has been going out of use.

Professor Schwab, of Yale, has gathered statistics of the occupation of 7,500 graduates of that institution. A hundred years ago nearly 90 per cent of the graduates went into the ministry. Now only about 7 per cent become ministers. But it would be a very superficial conclusion from these figures to declare that the interest in the ministry is falling off. The fact is, rather, that now a larger number of persons who are preparing for all other walks in life go to college. For instance, 21 per cent of the sons of Yale now go into business. The fact is, these figures warrant no inference at all as to the ministry.

The Open and Institutional Church has passed its fifth annual convention. Perhaps you all know what it is. It is a convention of churches which believe in the duty and necessity of making churches, buildings as well as organizations, useful more than one day in the week, and in carrying on all the helpful work possible. It is a body of people who are coming to look at the church as an institution in and through which to do good, rather than one from which to get good primarily. In convention they talk about the ways and means of revitalizing the Christian church. This time they spent considerable time discussing the federation of American churches. All of which is very good.

Those tender souls who have been grieved by the innovations of the revised version of the Bible, as though the much-tinkered English of the so-called authorized version were itself literally inspired—what will they say to the irreverent undertaking of Professor Stevens, of Yale, who has just published "The Epistles of Paul in Modern English"? For our own part, we regard it as a very sensible notion. What is the use of letting pious souls break their heads on the unimpeachable phrases of Paul's epistles to the Galatians? To illustrate, instead of "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin," Mr. Stevens reads: "One sins against his own moral nature when he does what his conscience is not clear in approving." Anybody can understand that.

Rev. Mr. Scudder, of Jersey City, who has had much free advertising as a minister who was teaching dancing in his church, explains things in a recent number of the Outlook. His church is one thing, and much like other churches. But his people have built also a "Tabernacle" in the midst of the toughest part of the city. The Tabernacle is an "institutional church," and, as such, one of its institutions is "The People's Palace," where the dancing classes are conducted. Mr. Scudder explains that the "Palace" is a secular institution, operated under religious auspices. Its object is to offer to the people of the neighborhood wholesome amusements under rational and moral conditions. This we take to be a sincerely religious work. We wonder why Mr. Scudder thinks it necessary to say so explicitly that the "Palace" is not on consecrated ground. If he isn't careful he may find that the ground is consecrated in spite of him.

Some people may not have noticed a brief item some weeks since to the effect that Mr. Stanley and the other newly elected state and congressional officers of Kansas were going on a little pleasure trip to Port Arthur in company with a select number of private citizens of Kansas and Missouri, among whom were the representatives of some great brewing establishments. The excursion was a pleasant affair, and those who participated doubtless were impressed with the need for a great harbor on the Gulf. But did you notice that Mr. Stanley was not one of the company? Now we all know that Mr. Stanley is very much occupied just at present, trying to satisfy the claims of the patriots who saved Kansas, but are willing to slaughter her if they do not get their pie. But do you suppose that was the reason why Mr. Stanley did not go on the excursion? Perhaps.

Dr. Blumer, of Utica, N. Y., has been doing some missionary work against the deprecation of his part of the country by display advertisements. By personal solicitation he has secured the removal of all such nuisances between his summer home and the city. He found in most cases that the signs had been put up without the consent of the owner of the property on which they stood, and met, therefore, little opposition in having them removed. Even where there was any consideration paid, it was very small. What Dr. Blumer has done others can do. In this connection it is worth noting that the New York Central railroad has steadily refused to permit the erection of signs on its right of way, although considerable sums have been offered for the privilege. Truly one for the soulless corporation!

Mr. McNeal, of Emporia, has tried the only thing likely to make him happy with it by taking a bride.

A Sullins paper says that "what shall we do for the next season?" is the burning question just now.

Let us trust that it was not the quality of the champagne punch served at the Fort Scott banquet which made the municipal association resolve that prohibition was a pretty good thing.

By the way, how many of the mayors and councilmen at that banquet later explained to their wives that "St. Julien," "Amontillado" and "Laubheimer" was on the bill of fare represented new ways of cooking peas?

The Globe demands that Atchison be admitted for "not having a single citizen who buys tickets to Wichita." Which is uncommonly the testimony to the transportation liberality of Katie Waggoner.

Miss Marvel Espener is the name of a Lawrence young woman who owns and runs a barber shop with three chairs. Thirty years ago Lawrence had a woman barber and her rough shaves haunt the city still.

At Olathe the wedding guests and preacher had gathered to solemnize the marriage of Samuel Pratt to his sweetheart. When the couple were bidden to stand up and join hands the bride blushed, declaring that she had just received a message from her dead mother advising her not to marry. The groom declared that he did not believe in spirit "hunches," but the bride was not to be moved and the wedding failed.

H. C. Ericsson, of Eskridge, belongs to one of the regiments recently sent to Porto Rico, and he writes of the voyage as follows: "Just as the trumpet was blowing the mess call at noon the ship struck a reef of rocks which nearly turned the ship over; just then she struck one on the other side which caused her to straighten up. It was nearly two hours before the ship was got into deep water again. The vessel was examined, and it was found that she had only received two large dents in her bow, but did not take water. The ship's captain said to our commanding officer that the men were a set of fools or else the nerviest men he ever saw, for we were all laughing and joking over the incident."

J. A. Curtis, of Crawford county, is a seaman on board the battleship Oregon. In a letter to his folks from Rio Janeiro he gives some idea of the ceremonies and sports indulged in on warships when they reach a friendly harbor. As follows: "We arrived at Rio 11th inst., and saluted the nation as we should by discharging twenty-one six-pound guns. They answered, and immediately we saluted the English admiral, his flagship being anchored in the bay close by, and they answered. The American minister came aboard, and upon his departure we saluted him, and the Brazilian flagship made a mistake and saluted him also, but mistakes will occur."

"The next day the visiting officers began monotonously; scarcely an hour went by but some rogue, pedagogue or demagogue must be spluttered, and at 12:30 p. m. the president came out in his private yacht and everybody saluted. The sound and resound came over the morbid waters of the Rio bay until it seemed as though another battle was on."

"The people of Rio are great sports, and so the revels must be kept up. Two or three days of the week are holidays. Just whatever the people see fit to keep. On the 15th inst. was their independence day, and, of course, we were in it. All of the ships in the bay (warships) turned in signal flags, hoisting a Brazilian flag to the uttermost mast. The nation was saluted every morning and evening by every vessel of water type in the bay."

"After dark Chinese lanterns decorated the ships most fastidiously, but the Calabrian, Italian flagship, took the prize awarded by the committee on decorations. Our ship's company gave a show on the foredeck of the Oregon, which was well patronized by English brother officers and men. The invitations were cordially extended to the Germans, but they excused themselves, thinking we could not get up anything worthy of their free notice, so the rumors were quickly spread that Germany and America would soon be fighting."

"On the next day the officers and American minister gave a ball on the quarter-deck of the Oregon. The forecastle had a chance just the day before, and now the quarterdeck must come in for her share. A sweet sounding orchestra was formed from the genial talent of the big vessel; the ship was elaborately trimmed with magnolia, coconut, pineapple and orange leaves and limbs, while the graceful darkies whirled the afternoon away. This affair began at 12:30 p. m. and 6:30 p. m. Oh, how sweet the orchestra appealed to the merry-makers as the minutes rapidly fled!"

"The serenitas came over from Rio, as well as a few of the sporting bloods, and all enjoyed themselves."

The Topeka Mail and Breeze has made itself the medium of letters to Santa Claus from boys and girls all over Kansas and the result is several columns of the most charming reading imaginable. Here is one from Ewart Rice, a 7-year-old boy in Cheyenne county, whose objections to the favors bestowed in the past would seem to be very well taken:

"Dear Santa Claus:—I was 7 years old last January. I have twin sisters 5 years old, and the twin brothers you sent me two years ago. Don't send us any more babies, please. Send me a gun that will kill rabbits and wolves, and a horn and a knife. Send the boys a ball. Send the girls a doll and a doll buggy, and I'd like a lot more things."

And here is one from George Maxwell, a 10-year-old boy of Rush county, whose regret that he has no little brother to fight with must be offset by his joy in the knowledge that his mother has made a good man out of a monstrously wicked father:

"Mr. Santa Claus, Dear Sir: I am a boy 10 years old and have no sister to kiss nor brother to play or fight with. My papa was a bad Democrat when he married ma, but she got him turned, and now he is an awful Republican. We take lots of papers and the best, Mr. McNeal is a mighty funny man."

Captain John K. Rankin, of Lawrence, is now in the government service and stationed on the Pacific coast, and here is the

KANSAS TOPICS.

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Captain John K. Rankin, of Lawrence, is now in the government service and stationed on the Pacific coast, and here is the

letter written to Santa by his little daughter in Kansas:

"How are you, old Santa Claus? Have you thought about my Christmas present yet? If you have not, please send me this one, which is my papa. He has been away eighteen months. It is a long time and I want to see him very much. It would not be out of the way to drop in at Klamath agency, Oregon, and bring him home to me, would it? He is a small man and would not take up much room in your sleigh and does not mind the cold, either. Did you know, old Santa, that my papa is the best papa in the state of Kansas? I don't need a doll, for the one that you brought me last Christmas is as good as new, and I can do without a great many things if I only have my dear papa."

And here is one from Thurza Bailey, a little girl of Westmoreland, which contains the most original idea that has been promulgated by childhood since the days when Santa was a pagan myth—the idea that the old fellow must have a son who will be wanting a wife by and by, for which place Miss Bailey offers herself as a candidate:

"Dear Santa Claus: When you come to Westmoreland, Kansas, please stop at the smallest white house on State street and give me a nice little watch, like my mama's, and a blue-eyed doll for Sister Etta, and a sled for Brother John. I will be eight years old next June, and am in the third grade of our school. My mamma teaches a school nine miles west of here, and papa teaches four miles southeast. He walks forth and back every day, and he, Etta and I keep house. Mamma comes home on Fridays. Now, dear old Santa, if you have a little boy who will be the Santa Claus when you die, please tell him of me, and that I'd like to be his wife, so I could go with him and help him give nice presents to the good boys and girls. For fear you will not know me I'll send you my picture and you can show it to your little boy."

Master Joseph Vernorn, of Larned, doesn't want much—just only all the things he can remember—but what do you suppose put the sphinx of Egypt in his head unless it might have been Ed Little's dog which barked for fifty centuries? Says Master Joseph:

"Dear Santa Claus:—I am a whole year since I wrote you a letter. I don't hardly know what to write you. My sister doesn't write me letters for me, but she is married now and she has to write letters for her baby, so I will have to write my letter by myself. I would like to see you, Santa Claus. I hope some day that I will go to Egypt, and see the sphinx of Egypt. I have a gun, a train of cars, a boomerang, a tea kettle, a book, a drum, a tin pan; a rubberneck box, a jumping jack, rooster whistle, colored pencils, a bird that sings, a bow and arrow, pearl handled knife, great big elephant, an electric car, a stocking of candy. I hope you will bring me all these things for Christmas."

However, when it comes to wanting the earth, and the fullness thereof, Master Joseph hasn't much the start of Miss May Reed, of Topeka, who lists her demands as follows: "I am a good little girl, and I want you to bring me lots of pretty presents. I want you to bring me a bicycle and pony, a brown pair of gloves, and a new silk parasol trimmed with white lace, a picture book, some games and some nice, little toys that I can play in the house with. A little doll hat, a table cloth for my little table, and a little gold watch that will run and keep time. Please don't forget now. I live at 113 Harrison street. I shall hang my stocking up at the foot of the bed. Now, Santa, I hope you are well, and I want you to bring me all the things I asked you for."

If we are to believe that Fannie Cooper, of Fort Scott, wrote the letter to which her name is signed, we must picture her as a precise little miss who says "prunes and prisms" every morning when she first gets out of bed in order to get her mouth shaped right. Here is her epistle:

"Dear Santa Claus:—I am a little girl who like to express many thanks for past favors with the hope that she may be remembered this coming Christmas. Kind, noble soul, many a sleepless night has I passed awaiting your joyous coming, and many a heartfelt prayer has been offered in your behalf for your precious care. Dear Santa Claus, may your image always remain to little boys and girls as sacred as it does in the heart of the one who signs this."

How curious that a man who lived several thousand years ago and who represented a semi-barbarous people should have uttered such words as these! Where did he get the truth he spoke? Yes, they are the truth as we in this age of science understand it. All our systems of religion are based on it, and when we meditate on the grandeur of the soul and its endless destiny the words of the text repeat themselves in our minds. They are words that are truly symbolic and yet they have come through the ages like a chime of bells. We do not accept the story of man's creation as literally true, but we are amazed that he should have so comprehended the difference between body and soul at a time when the world was in its swaddling clothes.

We retain his idea, but clothe it in more philosophic language. We declare that God's life pervades the universe. The life comes from Him and is a part of Him. Man's soul is therefore the God in man. Since no part of God can die, the soul must live forever. The infinite and the finite belong to each other, and the water in a pool came from the water in the ocean. The mother's love is simply God's love fitted to the limitations of a time, and all the attributes of man are God's attributes in miniature. We have the shadow of the other, or, better still, the echo of the other. You cannot get away from God, and when you try to do so your consciousness of Him and His love is a reminder of His presence. He is a home-sickness of the soul, the soul remembering that it has wandered and longing to get back.

What marvelous idea of human life follows from these facts! You have never followed waste under the honest impression that it matters little what becomes of it, or that, at any rate, it is your own and you have a right to do with it what suits your fancy. But no, your